

CLAIMS

1 1. A method of analyzing a flow for an accounting
2 application, comprising:

3 mapping protocol information of a first protocol type
4 to protocol information of a second, independent protocol type
5 for the flow; and

6 using the results of the mapping to provide well-
7 informed accounting information related to the flow to the
8 accounting application.

Sub B7
10 The method of claim 1, wherein mapping comprises:
11 capturing an IP packet from a network segment;
12 determining if the captured IP packet includes a
13 message of the first protocol type for providing error reporting,
14 the message having an IP packet that triggered an error event
15 embedded within, the embedded IP packet being of the second
16 protocol type and having a flow associated therewith; and
17 correlating the flow associated with the embedded IP
18 packet to a stored parent flow of a given state, thereby
19 associating the error event with the given state of the stored
20 parent flow.

Sub C7
21 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first protocol type
22 is the Internet Control Message Protocol.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the second protocol type
2 is the Transmission Control Protocol.

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2 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the first protocol type
3 is the Internet Control Message Protocol and the second protocol
type is the Transmission Control Protocol.

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